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HE'S AT THE HEAD OF

THE GREAT ACADEMIC WORK AND HAS

put This Depar:ment Among the Fo'emost at Tu·kegee—Mr J D. McCall, a C l ege Graduate, Has a Corps of Active and Brilliant Ass:tants Who Represent the Great Schools of the C untry His Career—A Fiskite.

Tuskegee, Ala.—(Special.)—A man well known in American literary life recently visited the Tuskegee Institute, and in writing to a Northern publication as to the methods employed at Tuskegee for the education of colored young men and women, expressed the thought, among other things, that "what is now known as industrial training is not, as some who misunderstand it imagine, merely training the hands to use tools. Hand training is only a part of a well-laid educational plan—a plan that forbids a pupil to be graduated in carpentry, for instance, who has not attained also a required standard of purely academic work; and it forbids a pupil to be graduated in an academic course who has not done satisfactory work at the trade. * * * Men and women who have had such training are not simply better equipped than men and women of the same native capacity who have not had it; they are thereby made radically different persons—different in character, in method, in ambition, in their outlook on life. * * * All this is elementary, so absurdly simple and obvious that few persons see the signlficance of it in buildng up the Negro, except the persons who have been to Hampton or Tuskegee or some similar school, and seen the system applied. Nor do professional educators yet understand that while they have been discussing courses of study and psychological problems, there has been worked out in their own generation and on the humblest educational level, the only system of education that can help the masses, particularly in an agricultural country, to a normal development—the only system about which there is never a difference of opinion among its beneficiaries. General Armstrong, and his greatest pupil, Mr. Booker T. Washington, are generally regarded as educators of the Negroes. So they are, but they are much more; for the system that they have worked out applies as well to one race as to another, and it contains the one permanent and revolutionary development of popular education that has been made since the enthusiasm of Horace Mann pushed the public school system into practically universal application."

I have quoted thus at length because this exposition of the theory of education at Tuskegee illustrates perfectly the thoughts entertained by those who control the destinies of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute. There has prevailed in some quarters the mistaken opinion that little or no academic or normal training is afforded at Tuskegee. This is a very grave error. While the Institute lays stress upon agricultural, mechanical and domestic science, at the same time it does not undervalue academic and normal training. At Tuskegee the question is not how much, but how thorough. While the course of study is not so broad as is true of some other institutions, still it is true that there is no institution in all the land where thoroughness is more a requirement than at Tuskegee. More and more every year it is the policy of the institution to raise the academic standard and to make the requirements for graduation more and more severe. A large number of students are either refused admission each year because of failure to comply with the entrance requirements, or are dropped out before the end of the year because they cannot keep up in the academic branches. The academic training is mainly given in the direction of mathematics, literature and the sciences. While nothing is attempted outside of the English branches, absolute thoroughness is required in these branches. There are few if any institutions in the South that nave more thorough courses in the sciences than Tuskegee Institute. This is especially true in regard to chemistry, botany, natural philosophy, physiology, etc.

The instruction in the academic as well as in the agricultural, mechanical and domestic branches is so inter-related that it is absolutely impossible for a student to get the benefit of one without the other. At Tuskegee it is never lost sight of that the young men and women who come here are not simply seeking educational progress, but also how they may become most helpful and useful not only to themselves but to their fellows as well. In all the academic teaching at Tuskegee books are employed as helps rather than as the main dependence. The instruction is carried on mostly by objective methods. The students are carried into the fields, into the shops, and are required to work out the actual

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MR JAMES D. McCALL,

Director Academic Department, Tuskegee Institute.

HE SHAVES GREAT MEN.

ATTENDS UPON THE PRESIDENT.

When in the Chair Mr. McKinley Talks Feeely and Discusses the Topics of The Dav With the Tonsorial Artist—Roosevelt Loves to Chat About Things of Current Interest, While Secretay Root and Secretary Long are Reserved.

Over a little shop in an F street basement there presides a man who has, perhaps, pulled the noses of more distinguished men than any other man in the country, withal, he has pulled them gently, and has for years been a great favorite of men who have thus been assailed by him. He is John W. Dabney, who is the special barber of the President of the United States and of two score of other public men, who, compelled to be shaved like ordinary mortals, delight in having that duty well done and with due regard to their own comfort and convenience.

There are three sets of official barbers in Washington—the Executive, the Senate, and the House of Representatives—but the dean of this corps is, of course, the man who shaves the President, looks after his hair, and keeps the Executive scalp in good condition. Dabney is an artist in his line, and one of the most modest of men. There is a barber's chair at the White House, but it has fallen into disuse. The President sits in an ordinary easy chair while Dabney spends the hour and a half usually required to properly dress Mr. McKinley's head and shave him. The Presidential face is somewhat tender and demands some care. His beard grows "stout" and must be handled gingerly. In the chair the President is one of the most pleasant of men. He talks freely and discusses current matters of the day, save politics. That he carefully eschews. He enjoys the operation, chats entertainingly, and after his head has been rubbed and the scalp treated as Dabney only knows how to treat it, the President expresses his satisfaction, and goes about his arduous duties refreshed and contented.

Then Dabney makes the rounds of the houses where he is daily expected in his duties that require him to care for the hair of ladies and innumerable official families. He is, as a barber, one of the most familiar figures in many of the leading families in Washington. For thirty years he has wielded the scissors and razor, and twenty-three years of that time have been spent in Washington. Among those now living whom he has or is serving are, besides the President and Mrs. McKinley, Secretary Root and Mrs. Root, Secretary Long, Vice-President-elect Roosevelt, Senator Frye, former Vice-President Stevenson, Justice Harlan, Gen. Miles, Admiral Dewey, Senator Hoar, Senator Carter, Col. D. M. Ransdell, Sergeant-at-Arms U. S. Senate; Gen. Clarkson, Henry Watterson, Gen. Tracy, former Sec-

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